

From: EPA Press Office [press=epa.gov@cmail19.com]
on behalf of EPA Press Office [press@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/23/2018 3:30:02 PM
To: Feeley, Drew (Robert) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=abae82aa36da4d3383eae19a8efa683c-Feeley, Rob]
Subject: EPA's Weekly Report for 3/23/18



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE
WWW.EPA.GOV/NEWSROOM

EPA'S WEEKLY REPORT

This week Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt sat down with more than a dozen reporters across all mediums to discuss the important work the Agency is doing to ensure regulatory certainty for America's farmers, ranchers, and businesses during National Agriculture Week. Pruitt also advanced the Trump Administration's infrastructure agenda with a push to eradicate lead from drinking water and convene a [national leadership summit](#) on PFAS to update America's crumbling water infrastructure.

NATIONAL NEWS ...

In an exclusive interview with the [Daily Caller](#), EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt laid out his plans to end the use of "secret science" to craft Agency regulations. "Pruitt will reverse long-standing EPA policy allowing regulators to rely on non-public scientific data in crafting rules. Such studies have been used to justify tens of billions of dollars worth of regulations. EPA regulators would only be allowed to consider scientific studies that make their data available for public scrutiny under Pruitt's new policy. Also, EPA-funded studies would need to make all their data public."

EPA Administrator Pruitt sat down with [AgDay](#) to talk about issues impacting farmers and ranchers including EPA's efforts to provide certainty by redefining "Waters of the U.S." According to Pruitt, a substitute or replacement definition will be issued sometime this year, a definition that will recognize private property ownership and the roles of states, and will answer the question of what exactly is a water of the United

States. 'We're going to get that right going forward, and the definition is going to provide clarity, objective measurements by which we know where federal jurisdiction begins and ends,' he said."

OP-ED ...

In the Washington Times, EPA Administrator Pruitt outlined the Agency's efforts to overhaul the permitting process to "rebuild and revitalize our nation's crumbling infrastructure." "The president's ambitious proposal calls for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to play a leading role in the administration's efforts ... America's infrastructure was once the envy of the world. The president's proposal will restore our roads, bridges and waterways to greatness and create a safer, stronger America. Through regulatory reforms and targeted investments, EPA will spearhead the much-needed repairs to infrastructure in a way that provides tangible environmental benefits to all Americans."

REGIONAL NEWS ...

The Detroit News reported that eradicating lead from drinking water is one of EPA Administrator Pruitt's top priorities. "I do think that what happened in Flint is something that could happen elsewhere. We just simply need to take steps to do all that we can to address it prospectively and proactively,' Pruitt said. Pruitt said President Donald Trump's \$1.5 trillion plan to bolster the nation's infrastructure over the next decade would include investments in aging water infrastructure."

While speaking with the New York Post, Pruitt called for a local, state, and federal response to the lead crisis in New York City and across the country. "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt called for a 'coordinated' response between New York State and City officials to address the ongoing lead crisis."

In an interview with Newark Star-Ledger, Pruitt discussed efforts to make cleaning up Superfund sites a priority to advance the Agency's core mission. "The Environmental Protection Agency plans to step up efforts to get companies who dumped toxic waste at New Jersey's Superfund sites to pay to clean them up, Administrator Scott Pruitt said. Pruitt on Monday blamed a lack of urgency... New Jersey has 114 designated Superfund sites, the most in the nation, included three of Pruitt's 21 highest-priority locations."

Pruitt reiterated his commitment to prioritizing the Superfund program to clean up America's most contaminated sites, including Tar Creek, in an interview with the Tulsa World. "Administrator Scott Pruitt of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said his new push on the nation's Superfund program finally can provide clarity and accountability to the Tar Creek area, for decades one of the oldest, largest and most complex toxic sites in the nation. 'It is really unacceptable,' Pruitt said as he

recalled the history of the Tar Creek area in far northeastern Oklahoma, whose Superfund legacy dates back to 1983, as well as the amount of money and time deployed there."

At this week's regional roundtable, the [Albuquerque Journal](#) reported on progress the Trump Administration is making on claim stemming from the 2015 Gold King Mine spill. "Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt said Monday that the federal government is close to finishing its assessment of roughly 400 claims for financial damages stemming from the 2015 Gold King Mine spill, which dumped toxic chemicals into waters in New Mexico, Colorado and Utah, and final recommendations could be ready by the end of the month."

RADIO ...

This week, Administrator Pruitt joined [WZFG 1100 AM The Flag - North Dakota](#) to talk about his first year accomplishments, including repeal and replacement of both "Waters of the U.S." rule and Clean Power Plan.



Administrator Pruitt also joined the [Lars Larson Show](#), based in Portland, Ore., and discussed how he's working to get the EPA back to basics and provide regulatory certainty for all Americans.

On the St. Louis, Missouri's own [Mark Reardon Show](#), Administrator Pruitt talked a little about baseball and a lot about the good work the Agency is doing to improve environmental outcomes across the country.

Scott Voorhees on [1110 KFAF-Omaha](#) had Administrator Pruitt on his show Wednesday to talk about what's to come at the EPA this year, including a continued focused on Superfund clean-up and regulatory transparency.



EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt

March 21, 2018 • 9 min

Interesting insight from the former OK AG on his work this past year, the road ahead, how he sees his responsibilities compared with the past administration, and working with President Trump.

TWEETS ...



Administrator Pruitt @EPAScottPruitt · Mar 21

What a beautiful surprise. snow on the second day of spring!





Administrator Pruitt ● @EPAScottPruitt · Mar 21

Spent the morning with friendly folks from @GaFarmBureau. We had a great discussion about ongoing work at the Agency to rewrite the #WOTUS rule and provide regulatory certainty for our farmers and ranchers across #America. #NationalAgWeek



Administrator Pruitt ● @EPAScottPruitt · Mar 19

Wrapped up our regional roundtable discussing important environmental issues like air, lead, Superfunds & infrastructure.



Albuquerque Journal, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, New York Post and 2 others



Administrator Pruitt ● @EPAScottPruitt · Mar 20



Had a great visit with hardworking farmers and ranchers from Wisconsin and Kentucky on #NationalAgDay! @EPA will continue to work with our agriculture partners across the country. #AgDay
#EPAInAction



WI Farm Bureau



Administrator Pruitt @EPAScottPruitt · 15h

#ICYMI. @EPA announced \$463K in funding for 31 Phase 1 student teams through the People, Prosperity, and the Planet grants program. Find out more

epa.gov/newsreleases/g...

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

EPA Awards Grants to 31 College Teams for Innovative Technology Projects

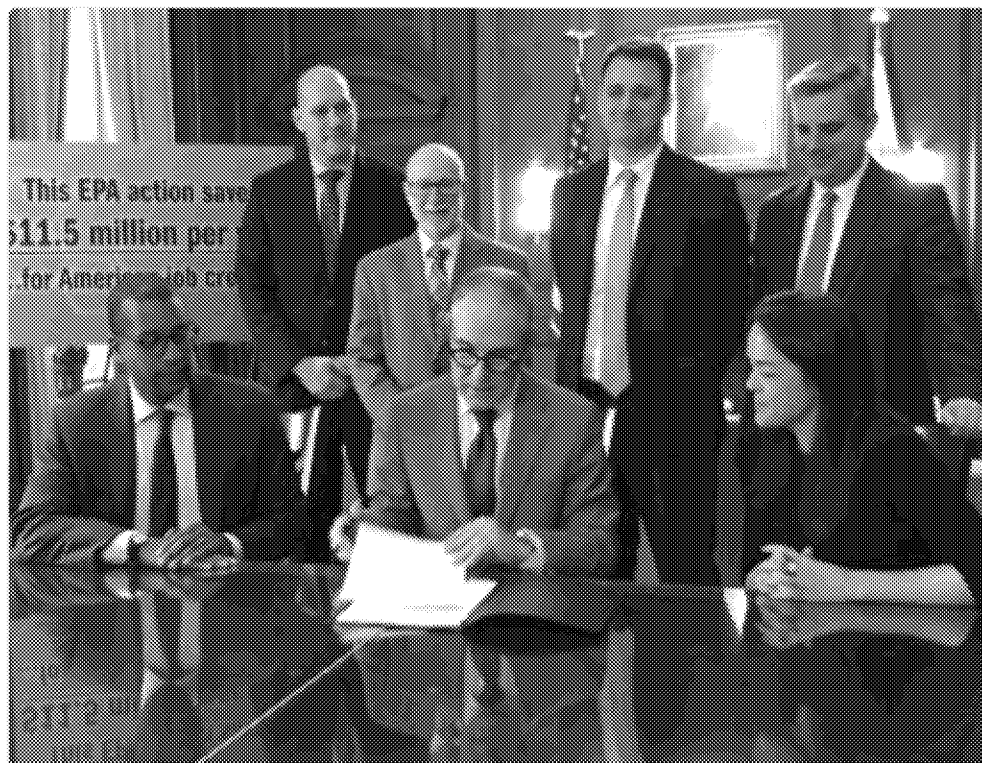
WASHINGTON (March 22, 2018) — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced over \$463,000 in funding for 31 Phase I student teams through the People, Prosperity, and the Planet (P3) grants program. These teams, made up of college students from across the country, are developing sustainable technologies to solve current environmental and public health challenges.

“This year’s P3 teams are applying their classroom learning to create innovative and practical technologies,” said **EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**. “This next generation of scientists has



Administrator Pruitt @EPAScottPruitt · Mar 20

Every bit of certainty matters. I just signed proposed amendments that will simplify compliance with national standards, generate significant cost-savings while protecting human health and the environment. #EPAInAction



FRONT PAGES ...

GLoucester Twp.

Cut down on the way home



Megan Piri holds a wedding photo of her and her husband, Joseph Piri, on Monday. Joe Piri, 32, died approximately a week after suffering injuries in a road-rage assault in Deepford Township on March 7. Lori M. Siskin, for South Jersey Times

Victim of deadly road rage, a devoted father 'came face-to-face with evil' during storm

Max Kury for South Jersey Times

Sitting on a couch in the living room of her Blackwood home, Megan Piri carefully recalled the last conversation she had with her husband.

Joe Piri was preparing to head home from work and wanted his wife to know he might be a little later than usual. It was March 7 and a nor'easter was dumping rain across the region, making for a drive fraught with peril.

"Just take your time and be careful," she told him. They ended their conversation with their traditional "I love you."

Joe Piri never made it home that night. Piri, 32, was killed in the face during a road-rage assault in Deepford Township that afternoon. He died of his injuries a week later.

"He just wanted to come home and he didn't make it home," his wife said, her voice cracking with grief.

Piri was able to speak to emergency responders and gave them his wife's phone number. By the time his family arrived at the hospital, they couldn't speak with him, explained Megan Piri's mother, Betty Jean Hampton.

"He was confused," she said. "He never spoke to."

His injury was caused by the time they saw him. "It went from one side of his nose to the other side of his face," Hampton said. "We don't know what happened. No one knew a very good man was taken from all of us."

He remained on life support until Thursday.

Piri was on organ donor and "he saved some lives," she said, praising the doctors and nurses who cared for him at

SEE STORY, A5

PHOTOGRAPH BY

4 who trafficked dogs for pit fights are sent to prison

Thomas Moravitz for South Jersey Times

Three South Jersey men were using four sentenced this month to years in federal prison for their roles in a criminal network person who sold trafficked dogs across state lines for bloody pit fights.

In the course of a sprawling multi-state investigation, the U.S. attorney's office said in a statement, federal agents discovered the basement of a defendant's home called in blood, evidence it had been used as a fighting pit. One man admitted his dog died on the way home after losing a fight.

Of the four defendants, Vladimir Vladimirovich "Manny" Gattuso and David Harris received sentences of 42 months and

37 months, respectively, for charges that included conspiracy and possessing a dog with the intent to use it in a dog fight.

Frank Nichols, of Millville, was sentenced to 37 months on charges that included being a felon in possession of a firearm. The fourth defendant, Pedro Carlos of Willow Springs, Illinois, received a year in prison after pleading guilty to a conspiracy charge.

All four of the men previously had pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Mary L. Casper in Trenton.

Prosecutors said their agents stumbled upon the operation in Camden, a court-ordered effort targeting dog fighting across southern federal districts.

Court records show agents seized six pit

bulls when they served a search warrant at Gattuso's home in November 2015, and federal authorities have said a total of 44 dogs were recovered in New Jersey as part of the investigation. Investigators said they also seized thousands of dollars' worth of breeding stands — meant to restrain female dogs — as they built their case against the men.

Prosecutors said a fifth defendant, 42-year-old Asbury Park resident Andre Atkinson, has also pleaded guilty and is scheduled to be sentenced on April 18. Other defendants remain awaiting trial.

Thomas Moravitz, NJ Attorney Media, tom.moravitz@njattorneymedia.com

STATEHOUSE

AG orders random drug tests for police

S.F. Sullivan for South Jersey Times

All police officers in New Jersey are now subject to random drug testing under a directive from the state's new attorney general.

Police departments are also required to implement "early warning systems" triggered by problem behaviors such as misconduct, excessive use of force, domestic abuse and excessive driving, under a separate directive announced by Attorney General Gurbir Grewal's office.

Grewal, who was appointed by Gov. Phil Murphy in January, said Tuesday that most police departments and county prosecutors already have such policies in place. The two new directives would mandate those statewide.

"We support our officers in their difficult jobs, and at times that means intervening with a troubled officer to protect the public, the individual officer, and his or her fellow officers," he said in a statement announcing the move.

HOW IT WORKS

Under the new rules, every state, county and local law enforcement agency is required to conduct random drug screening in 2018 and perform such tests twice a year going forward.

Departments are required to report any failed tests — or officers who refuse a test — as well as any resulting discipline to the county prosecutor or other supervising agency.

The early warning system requirement spells out 15 "performance indicators" that

SEE STORY, A5

WASHINGTON

EPA to make polluters clean Superfund sites in N.J.

Jonathan D. Salant for South Jersey Times

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to step up efforts to get the companies that dumped toxic waste at New Jersey's Superfund sites to pay to clean them up, administration officials said.

Prior to Monday, Superfund sites were a lack of urgency, not a lack of funding, for the slow progress to cleaning up the sites. New Jersey has 14 designated Superfund sites, the most in the nation, including three of the nation's highest priority locations.

"I'm going to get accountability with whomever it is on these Superfund sites and we will see every instance of non-compliance to do so," Pruitt said. "I don't think we've done it as well as we should have historically and we're going to do better going forward."

While President Donald Trump has proposed cutting the EPA's budget, Pruitt said the agency will have the money it needs by ensuring that the companies responsible for the contamination clean it up.

"Most of our sites across the country have a responsible party," Pruitt said. "We have very few orphan sites."

SEE EPA, A5





A few gun owners brought their AR-15 rifles to the Las Cruces City Council meeting and spoke out against a resolution to ask the governor and state legislators to restrict semiautomatic weapon sales and ownership in New Mexico.

Cruces council tables gun restriction measure

Resolution intended to urge action against semiautomatic weapons

By ANGELA RODRIGUEZ
Journal Staff Writer

LAS CRUCES — A standing-room-only crowd packed the Las Cruces City Council meeting

Monday, where supporters voted to approve a resolution asking the governor and state legislators to restrict semiautomatic weapons. Representatives of the Las Cruces gun community also spoke out against the measure.

"We're not members of the public," said one man, "we're the public."

He said the measure is "a waste of time" and "a waste of money."

He said the measure is "a waste of time" and "a waste of money."

Monday, where supporters voted to approve a resolution asking the governor and state legislators to restrict semiautomatic weapons. Representatives of the Las Cruces gun community also spoke out against the measure.

"We're not members of the public," said one man, "we're the public."

He said the measure is "a waste of time" and "a waste of money."

He said the measure is "a waste of time" and "a waste of money."



Jacqueline Arellano and her fiancé, Daniel Crespo, talk in the Manzana Mesa Multigenerational Center on Monday about their escape from a fire at their apartment building on Sunday. With them are their children, from left, Francisco Arellano Crespo, 5, Daniel Crespo Jr., 6, and 4-year-old Daniel Crespo Jr.

Union urges teachers to skip survey

APF leader calls APF budget questionnaire problematic, divisive and inappropriate

By DREW HENRY
Journal Staff Writer

Former Albuquerque Public Schools teacher Julia Henrich says she left a PS after two years because she felt the school was too toxic to work in.

She often tried to share her story in classroom and community settings with administrators, saying she was not alone.

But Henrich, now a second-grade teacher at Mission Academy, said she was not alone.

She said she was not alone.

She said she was not alone.



Albuquerque Teachers Federation President Julia Henrich.

Residents smelled gas before fire

30 stay in shelter after fire destroys, damages SE Albuquerque apartments

By KIM S. COLEMAN
Journal Staff Writer

Residents say a fire that destroyed or damaged a number of units at a Southeast Albuquerque apartment complex Sunday was caused by the same leaky gas meter that they

later to have responsibility reported to the apartment manager for more than a year.

The apartment manager Tuesday denied responsibility for the fire, saying about 20 people who lived in the apartment building in the 400 block of Georgia St. were temporarily relocated to the Mountain Mesa Multigenerational Center, where they were housed overnight, and provided food by the city of Albuquerque and the Red Cross.

city's Office of Senior Affairs. The center was placed in the public building, Sanchez located the public for being under standing, and said the building would be open for normal activities and services today.

In a statement, the city said the fire provided vouchers for some displaced families, which include its people under age 18, and if they are a local resident, Sanchez said.

See RESIDENTS >> A2

ABQ TIES IN FACEBOOK DATA MINING SCANDAL



A powerful and controversial new law passed by Congress last week that would require Facebook to help protect people's privacy and the 2015-2016 season in 2016.

METRO & KM >> A6

EPA close to settling claims on mine spill



\$1.2 billion in damages sought after toxic waste polluted rivers


By MICHAEL GOODMAN
Journal Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt

said Monday that the federal government is close to settling its lawsuit over liability and claims for financial damages stemming from the 1983 Gold King Mine spill, which dumped toxic chemicals into waters in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and West Virginia.

Glenn McCarthy, an Obama-era spokesman, announced Monday that the government would pay any damages to farmers and others harmed by the toxic spill, arguing it was a "landmark" under the Governmental Tort Claims Act. But McCarthy said the settlement would be "subject to the approval of the courts."

See EPA >> A6



Spring 31 DAY WINDOW & DOOR SALE

UP TO 31% OFF

2 YEARS NO PAYMENTS NO INTEREST

UP TO \$300 OFF

UP TO \$800 OFF

UP TO \$1,000 OFF

UP TO \$1,200 OFF

UP TO \$1,400 OFF

UP TO \$1,600 OFF

UP TO \$1,800 OFF

UP TO \$2,000 OFF

UP TO \$2,200 OFF

UP TO \$2,400 OFF

UP TO \$2,600 OFF

UP TO \$2,800 OFF

UP TO \$3,000 OFF

UP TO \$3,200 OFF

UP TO \$3,400 OFF

UP TO \$3,600 OFF

UP TO \$3,800 OFF

UP TO \$4,000 OFF

UP TO \$4,200 OFF

UP TO \$4,400 OFF

UP TO \$4,600 OFF

UP TO \$4,800 OFF

UP TO \$5,000 OFF

UP TO \$5,200 OFF

UP TO \$5,400 OFF

UP TO \$5,600 OFF

UP TO \$5,800 OFF

UP TO \$6,000 OFF

UP TO \$6,200 OFF

UP TO \$6,400 OFF

UP TO \$6,600 OFF

UP TO \$6,800 OFF

UP TO \$7,000 OFF

UP TO \$7,200 OFF

UP TO \$7,400 OFF

UP TO \$7,600 OFF

UP TO \$7,800 OFF

UP TO \$8,000 OFF

UP TO \$8,200 OFF

UP TO \$8,400 OFF

UP TO \$8,600 OFF

UP TO \$8,800 OFF

UP TO \$9,000 OFF

UP TO \$9,200 OFF

UP TO \$9,400 OFF

UP TO \$9,600 OFF

UP TO \$9,800 OFF

UP TO \$10,000 OFF

Visit The EPA's
Newsroom



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004



Like



Tweet



Share



Forward

[Unsubscribe](#)